

Grenada et fl. Napo; (4) *E. PICTUS* (Pl. Enl. 330; *Bucco elegans*, Gm., *Capito maynanensis*, Gray); (5) *E. ERYTHROCEPHALUS* (Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 260) ex Peruv. Orientali; (6) *E. HARTLAUBI* (Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1845, p. 180, et 1849, p. 176, pl. 6; *Capito capistratus*, Eyton, Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 131, et *Megalania capistrata*, ibid. 1850, p. 29, pl. 45) ex Bogota, fl. Napo, et Peruv. Orientali; (7) *E. GLAUCOGULARIS* (Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 259, pl. 24. f. 2) ex Peruv. Orient.

Of the genus *Capito*, besides the *C. cayanensis* and *C. peruvianus* and the intermediate *C. amazoninus*, there is a very beautiful fourth species, *C. aurovirens* (Le Vaill. Prom. Suppl. pl. E., *Bucco aurovirens*, Cuv.). This bird was met with at Sarayaçu on the Ucayali by MM. Castlenau and Deville during their voyage, and there are specimens in the Paris Museum from their collection. Mr. Gould possesses specimens obtained by Hauxwell on the same river.

The third and only remaining American genus of the family is *Tetragonops*, a very peculiar form from the Quitian Andes, described by Sir William Jardine in the Edinb. N. Phil. Journ. 1855, n. s. ii. p. 404.

75. *CHLORONERPES ERYTHROPS* (Vieill.).

Ega.

76. *CROTOPHAGA MAJOR*, Linn.

Rio Javarri.

77. *EURYPYGA HELIAS* (Pallas).

Rio Javarri.

78. *TIGRISOMA BRASILIENSE* (Linn.).

Rio Javarri.

79. *TIGRISOMA TIGRINUM* (Gm.).

Rio Javarri.

December 8, 1857.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. ON A NEW SPECIES OF CASSOWARY.

BY JOHN GOULD, F.R.S., V.P., ETC.

(Aves, Pl. CXXIX.)

I think it has been shown, that not only many species, but whole genera, and even great families of birds, formerly existed on the surface of the globe, of which no living representatives now remain, but

whose previous existence is made manifest to us by their foot-prints, the remains of their osseous structure, or portions of their egg-shells ; some of these lived in periods of the most remote antiquity, while others are doubtless coeval with Man : of these latter probably not a few owe their extirpation to his wanton disregard for their perpetuity, such as the Dodo, the Dinornis, the Norfolk Island Parrot, &c. ; their extinction being aided by their large size rendering them conspicuous objects, and by the circumstance of their being denizens of very limited areas, of small groups of islands, such as Mauritius, Madagascar, Norfolk and Philip Islands, &c. The great group of extinct struthious birds with which Owen and the younger Mantell have made us so well acquainted, is one which all ornithologists must regard with especial interest, and this interest will I doubt not be greatly enhanced when I state that I have undoubted evidence that a species pertaining to it, and hitherto unknown to us, is still living on our globe. These few prefatory remarks are given before introducing to the notice of the Society a most interesting communication which I have just received from George Bennett, Esq., of Sydney, respecting a new species of Cassowary lately discovered in the Island of New Britain, an example of which, apparently fully adult, is either now living at Sydney, or *en route* to Europe : that it may soon arrive, or if it should unfortunately die its skin may be duly preserved and sent to us, is my anxious hope. I am sure I need not expatiate upon the warm interest which our corresponding member, Dr. Bennett, has always manifested for the welfare of this Society, nor upon the value of the varied contributions he has made to natural science ; it cannot fail to afford pleasure to us all to find, as will be seen, that this interest on his part is still undiminished. I think, therefore, that it will only be a just tribute of respect if we name the bird, of whose existence he has been the first to make us acquainted, in honour of himself, CASUARIUS BENNETTI (Pl. CXXIX.).

Of this particular section of the *Struthionidæ*, then, there are the *C. galeatus*, a native of New Guinea, the *C. australis* inhabiting the Cape York district of Australia, and the *C. Bennetti*, whose domicile is the Island of New Britain.

The following are the details respecting this new species with which Mr. Bennett has favoured me :—

“ Sydney, Sept. 10, 1857.

“ MY DEAR GOULD,

“ I send you an account of a new species of Cassowary recently brought to Sydney by Captain Devlin in the cutter ‘ Oberon ; ’ it was procured from the natives of New Britain, an island in the South Pacific Ocean near to New Guinea, where it is known by the name of ‘ Mooruk.’ The height of the bird is 3 feet to the top of the back, and 5 feet when standing erect ; its colour is rufous mixed with black on the back and hinder portions of the body, and raven black about the neck and breast ; the loose wavy skin of the neck is beautifully coloured with iridescent tints of bluish-purple, pink, and an occasional shade of green, quite different from the red and purple ca-

runcles of the *Casuarium galeatus*; the feet and legs, which are very large and strong, are of a pale ash-colour, and exhibit a remarkable peculiarity in the extreme length of the claw of the inner toe on each foot, it being nearly three times the length which it obtains in the claws of the other toes; this bird also differs from the *C. galeatus* in having a horny plate instead of a helmet-like protuberance on the top of the head, which callous plate has the character of and resembles mother of pearl darkened with black lead; the form of the bill differs considerably from that of the Emu (*Dromaius Novæ-Hollandiæ*), being narrower, longer, and more curved, and in having a black and leathery cere at the base and behind the plate of the head a small tuft of black hair-like feathers, which are continued in greater or lesser abundance over most parts of the neck.

“The bird is very tame and familiar, and when in a good humour frequently dances about its place of confinement. It is fed upon boiled potatoes and meat occasionally. The egg is about the same size as that of the Emu, and is of a dirty pale yellowish-green colour; I give this description from an egg obtained from the natives by Capt. Devlin.

“The bird appears to me to approximate more nearly to the Emu than to the Cassowary, and to form the link between those species. In its bearing and style of walking it resembles the former, throwing the head forward, and only becoming perfectly erect when running; it also very much resembles the Apteryx in the carriage of its body, in the style of its motion, and in its attitudes. It has been exhibited by Messrs. Wilcox and Turner in Hunter Street, Sydney.

“The accurate drawing which accompanies this letter was taken from life by Mr. G. F. Angas, whose correct delineation of objects of natural history is so well known; it conveys an excellent idea of the bird.

“Before closing my letter I have again examined the bird, and have to add, that its bill presents a good deal of the character of that of a Rail, and that it utters a peculiar whistling chirping sound; and I am informed that it also emits a loud one resembling the word ‘Muruk,’ whence no doubt is derived its native name. The existence of the species in New Britain or some of the neighbouring islands has been suspected for the last three years, and some time since a young specimen was procured, but unfortunately lost overboard during the voyage.

“Ever, my dear Gould,

“Your sincere friend,

“GEORGE BENNETT.”

As the bird has not yet reached this country, the fact of its being a new species must for the present rest upon Mr. Bennett’s authority.

The account published by Mr. Wall of the discovery of the bird he has named *Casuarium australis* being but little known in this country, I have thought it might not be uninteresting to the meeting if I give a copy of it here as it appeared in the ‘Illustrated Sydney Herald’ of June 3, 1854.

“The first specimen of this bird was procured by Mr. Thomas Wall, naturalist to the late expedition commanded by Mr. Kennedy. This was shot near Cape York, in one of those almost inaccessible gullies which abound in that part of the Australian continent. The Cassowary, when erect, stands about 5 feet high. The head is without feathers, but covered with a blue skin, and, like the Emu, is almost without wings, having mere rudiments. The body is thickly covered with dark brown wiry feathers. On the head is a large protuberance or helmet of a bright red colour, and to the neck are attached, like bells, six or eight round fleshy balls of bright blue and scarlet, which give the bird a very beautiful appearance. The first, and indeed the only, specimen of the Australian Cassowary was unfortunately left at Weymouth Bay, and has not been recovered. Mr. Wall being most anxious for its preservation had secured it in a canvas bag and carried it with him to the spot where, unfortunately for himself and for science, it was lost. In the ravine where the bird was killed, as well as other deep and stony valleys of that neighbourhood, they were seen running in companies of seven or eight. On that part of the north-eastern coast, therefore, they are probably plentiful, and will be met with in all the deep gullies at the base of high hills. The flesh of this bird was eaten, and was found to be delicious; a single leg afforded more substantial food than ten or twelve hungry men could dispose of at one meal. The Cassowary possesses great strength in its legs, and makes use of this strength in the same manner as the Emu. Their whole build is, however, more strong and heavy than that of the latter bird. They are very wary, but their presence may be easily detected by their utterance of a peculiarly loud note, which is taken up and echoed along the gullies; and it would be easy to kill them with a rifle.”

The above account was furnished to the ‘Illustrated Sydney Herald’ by Mr. Wall’s brother, Mr. William Sheridan Wall, Curator of the Australian Museum.

No skin of this species having yet been sent home, I am unable to say if the bird be really a new species, or identical with the New Guinea bird *Casuarinus galeatus*. I trust, however, that the time is not far distant when some expedition more fortunate than the one to which Mr. Wall was attached may procure examples, and by making us better acquainted with the bird, enable us to decide this point.

2. DESCRIPTION OF ELEVEN NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM TROPICAL AMERICA. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

(Aves, Pl. CXXX.)

1. CAMPYLORHYNCHUS PARDUS.

Supra albo nigroque tessellatus, alis nigris albo regulariter transvittatis: cauda nigra, rectricibus maculis magnis albis in utroque pogonio crebro transfasciatis: nucha brunnea: pileo